

## What is Claimed:

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- 5        1. An information transmission method for transmitting information that meets the requirements of a user, comprising:
- outputting to the user information showing how the information that meets the requirements is treated in an information source as layout information when receiving the requirements from the user;
- 10        receiving from the user a specification of the information that should be transmitted to the user based on the layout information; and
- transmitting the specified information to the user.
- 15        2. An information transmission method for transmitting information that meets the requirements of a user, comprising:
- storing a preference for information that each user having a possibility of receiving information wants to
- 20        obtain;
- retrieving information showing how the information that meets the requirements is treated in an information source using the preference when receiving the requirements from the user;
- 25        outputting the retrieved "how-treated-in-source

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outputting to the external party a request for specifying the information that a user is likely to

require;

receiving from the external party information showing how the information that the user is likely to require is treated in an information source as layout information;

receiving a specification of the information that the user decides is necessary based on the layout information; and

requesting the external party to transmit the specified information to the user.

6. The information receiving method according Claim 5, wherein,

said information showing how the information is treated in an information source is information showing a position in the information source and an importance degree in the information source.

7. A computer-readable storage medium storing a program used to direct a computer capable of transmitting information that meets the requirements of a user, comprising the steps of:

outputting to the user information showing how the information that meets the requirements of the user is treated in an information source as layout information;

receiving from the user a specification of the information that should be transmitted to the user based on the layout information; and

transmitting the specified information to the user.

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8. A computer-readable storage medium storing a program used to direct a computer capable of receiving necessary information from an external party, comprising the steps of:

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outputting to the external party a request for specifying the information that the user is likely to require;

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receiving from the external party a information showing how the information that the user is likely to require is treated in an information source as layout information;

receiving a specification of the information that the user decides necessary based on the layout information; and

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requesting the external party to transmit the specified information to the user.

9. The computer-readable storage medium according Claim 7, wherein

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said information showing how the information is

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treated in the information source is information showing the position in the information source and an importance degree in the information source.

- 5      10.    The computer-readable storage medium according Claim 8, wherein

10                said information showing how the information is treated in an information source is information showing the position in the information source and the importance degree in the information source.

11.    An information transmission apparatus capable of transmitting information that meets the requirements of a user, comprising:

15                an information retrieval unit for retrieving information showing how the information that meets the requirements of the user is treated in the information source;

20                a layout information output unit for outputting to the user the retrieved "how-treated-in-source information" as layout information; and

              an information transmission unit for transmitting to the user the requested information based on the layout information.

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12. An information receiving apparatus capable of receiving necessary information from an external party, comprising:

5 a request output unit for outputting to the external party a request for specifying the information that the user is likely to require;

10 a layout information receiving unit for receiving from the external party information showing how the information that the user is likely to require is treated in an information source as layout information; and

a transmission request unit for requesting the external party to transmit the information that the user decides is necessary.

15 13. An information transmission method for transmitting information that meets the requirements of a user, comprising:

adding information showing how each piece of information is treated in an information source;

20 reading the information showing the "how-treated-in-source information" and outputting said information as layout information to the user;

receiving a specification of the information from the user based on the layout information; and

25 transmitting the specified information to the user.

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14. An information transmission apparatus capable of transmitting information that meets the requirements of a user, comprising:

5 information retrieval means for retrieving information showing how the information that meets the requirements of the user is treated in the information source;

10 layout information output means for outputting to the user the retrieved "how-treated-in-source information" as layout information; and

information transmission means for transmitting to the user the requested information based on the layout information.

15 15. An information receiving apparatus capable of receiving necessary information from an external party, comprising:

20 request output means for outputting to the external party a request for specifying the information that the user is likely to require;

layout information receiving means for receiving from the external party information showing how the information that the user is likely to require is treated in an information source as layout information; and

25 transmission request means for requesting the

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